SYLLABUS: INTRODUCTION TO THE PRACTICE OF MINISTRY  

KNP1601  Winter/Spring 2014

Instructor:       Pam McCarroll            Class: Thursdays 2-5pm
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Course Description: Explores various aspects of ministry, in particular the theology and practice of ordained ministry within the Reformed traditions. Topics include understandings of ministry, the call, functions and roles in ministry, challenges and contexts for ministry today and in the future, leadership and authority, and spiritual practices. Various methods of learning will be used (small group, lecture, discussion, mentorship experience).

Theological and Practical Curricular Outcomes By successfully completing this course a student will meet the following outcomes:

Religious Heritage
- Identify theology and practices of ministry related to central functions of ministry;
- Describe the distinctive theology and practices of Reformed understandings of ministry within the larger Christian tradition;
- Name and describe spiritual practices within Christian traditions;
- Demonstrate basic knowledge of various theological disciplines and how these intersect with the practice of ministry.

Cultural Context
- Identify theology and practices of ministry that demonstrate respect for difference - cultural, ethnic, gender and physical ability diversity, etc.;
- Demonstrate willingness to engage the diversity of the church;
- Demonstrate basic understanding of contextual issues (societal, ecclesial, global) and an emerging awareness of how these factors impact what it means to be a pastor today in a particular context.

Personal Spiritual Formation
- Articulate one’s own emerging self-understanding in ministry;
- Demonstrate piety congruent with the Christian & denominational tradition;
- Ability to articulate an emerging sense of call to ministry;
- Ability and willingness to act in a principled, ethical fashion;
- Demonstrate an ability to identify assumptions;
- Show willingness to conduct one’s life out of confessed Christian faith;
- Display willingness to engage in prayer, Bible study, worship, discipleship and growth in the fruit of the Spirit.

Capacity for Ministry
- Show care for others and act in a compassionate manner towards others, including people of different backgrounds, ages, and perspectives;
- Ability to articulate one’s emerging pastoral identity and emerging theology of ministry in relation to the Reformed traditions.

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1 Before purchasing any of the books identified check with the Professor. This syllabus may be changed up until January 2014.
Course Requirements and Evaluative Criteria

COURSE POLICIES
Policies for courses are contained in the TST Basic Degree Handbook and the Knox Student Handbook. In particular note:

**Cell Phones:** Cell phones can be disruptive to the classroom experience. Students, therefore, should turn off or set their phones to silent and refrain from using them while in class. Cell phone use is permitted only for medical professionals who are on call and for students who need to be in constant contact with ill family members or minors. Students who meet either of these requirements should inform the professor prior to class.

**Use of Technology:** Laptops and other computing devices may be used in the classroom for note taking purposes only. The use of the internet is not permitted while class is in session unless it is part of a specific class activity. Students wishing to text message, search for images, fact check etc. should do so during the break or outside of class. Much of the learning that goes on in the classroom is founded upon mutual disclosure that takes place between the instructor and the student and between students. Parties outside of that learning community have not committed themselves to this relationship of trust. For this and other reasons, permission to record lectures in audio format is granted for use by registered students only. Video recording is not permitted without the written permission of the instructor. Recordings and notes of class lectures may not be electronically reproduced, posted or distributed without the written permission of the instructor.

**Late Policy:** one grade (4 marks) deducted per week late.

**Completion of Course work:**
All course work must be completed by the due date of final paper (April 10, 2014). Only in the case of illness (with a note from a doctor), bereavement or other unusual circumstances will an SDF extension be considered and this must be authorized by the Faculty. A request for a SDF extension must be submitted in writing by the last day of the class to the Registrar or the Director of Academic Programs who will refer the matter with a recommendation, to the Faculty for final decision.

**Attendance and lateness:** Consistent and timely attendance is required. If a student is unable to attend a class the professor is to be informed by email. More than 2 absences will result in failure to pass the course. Habitual lateness will be regarded as absence.

**Email correspondence:** Papers and assignments are accepted in hard copy only, preferably on recycled or re-used paper. Communication by email can ONLY take place through UTOR email accounts.

**Plagiarism Policy:** See TST Basic Degree Handbook and the Knox Student Handbook.
ASSIGNMENTS:
1. Reflection paper(s), Presentation, Spiritual Gathering, Profile in Ministry, Participation
Reflection paper(s), leadership in a spiritual gathering and a presentation on the mentored ministry experience (50%) as well as class participation and participation in profile of ministry (25%), will be worth 75% of the final mark.
  • **January 30 – Reflection Paper** - Exploring my Faith Journey for Ministry and sense of Call and Pastoral Images – Include some discussion of class discussion regarding call and how this related to your own spiritual journey and discernment. (approx. 4-6 pages)
  • **March 13 – (Optional) Reflection Paper** – Personally engage and reflect upon the functions of ministry – pastoring, priestly function, preaching, teaching, prophet and evangel functions etc. in the church today. Class content, readings. Preparation for final paper.
  • **Spiritual Gathering** – in groups of 3 you will open the class with a spiritual practice. Please choose from the spiritual gathering identified in Class Schedule:
    o Brief description of the history and theology of the practice, resource information for others to access, lead in the practice. Total: 10-15 minutes Max.
  • **15-hour Mentorship**
    o **Before February 13** – submit proposal for approval of mentorship plan including, name, contact information, mentor’s position and plan for use of hours and what you hope to learn.
    o **Fifteen-Hour Mentorship Experience** - Over a 3-5 week period you will spend a minimum of 15 hours with a mentor for ministry. The 15 hours will include individual conversations about ministry exploring the mentor’s experiences and reflections on ministry, being present with the mentor in ministry experiences (worship, pastoral visiting, congregational/community events, social justice/mission experiences, etc.) and having an opportunity to discuss the experiences toward the end of the mentoring time.
    o **By March 27 - Presentation** - Reflect on the 15-hour mentorship experience – Describe your mentorship setting. What did you learn about ministry? What questions and surprises emerged? How did it help you reflect on the contexts of the church’s ministry today? How did it help you to reflect on yourself in ministry and about your own gifts and challenges in ministry?

**Profile in Ministry**
**By January 23**, submit a completed Profile in Ministry. This takes about 3 hours to complete and is a questionnaire regarding situations in ministry.

2. **Final Integrative Paper**
Students are to write a 10-page integrative paper focusing on the theology and practice of ministry as explored through a pastoral image (or story/metaphor/scripture passage). The paper will draw on class lectures, discussions, Scripture and texts (required and recommended). The paper will describe a pastoral image/passage that can function as an integrative focus for one’s theology and practice of ministry. The pastoral image (story/metaphor/passage) will be considered theologically (how it expresses a theology of ministry), contextually (how it engages the North American contexts of ministry) and personally (how it intersects with one’s faith journey, sense of call). Further, the pastoral image (story/metaphor/passage) will be explored through the theology and practice of the different functions/roles of ministry (pastor, priest, prophet, preacher, teacher, etc.) discussed throughout the course. The assignment must include a thorough exploration of a pastoral image (story/metaphor/passage) and how it relates, at this
point, to the student’s discernment process and to their understanding of the theology and practice of ministry. It is worth 25% of the final mark. **Due: April 10, 2014**

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

**Week 1 – Introduction**

**Week 2 - The Call**  
Video: Henri Nouwen, *Journey of the Heart*  
Readings for today: Rice, pp. 11-38 (Introduction & chapter 1)  
Willimon, pp. 11-53 (Introduction & chapter 1)  

Recommended: *Together in Ministry*, pp. 5-7, 48-64.  

Theology of Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments:  

**Week 3 - Pastoral Identity and Formation: Images for Ministry**  
Spiritual Gathering: Lectio Divina

Readings for today: Rice, pp. 39-74 (chapters 2-3)  
Willimon, pp. 55-74 (chapter 2)  
Submit Profile of Ministry

**Week 4 - Ministry Functions – Pastoring: Caring for Souls**  
Priestly: Leading Worship and Presiding at the Sacraments  
Spiritual Gathering: Antiphonal Psalm (sung/chant from Psalter) and Prayer

Readings for today: Rice, pp. 75-90 (chapter 4)  
Rice, pp. 91-106 (chapter 5)  
Willimon, pp. 91-110, 171-185 (chapters 4 & 7)  
Willimon, pp. 75-90 and (chapter 3 and ch 5)  
Reflection #1 Due

**Week 5 - Feb 7**  
Ministry Functions - Preacher and Teacher: The Word in the words  
TFE Seminar  
Spiritual Gathering: Labyrinth

Readings for today: Rice, pp. 107-123 (chapter 6)  
Handouts - Willimon, pp. 133-170 (chapter 6 with interludes)  
Willimon, pp. 203-224 (chapter 8, Interludes)  
Willimon, pp. 225-264(chapters 9 & 10, Interlude) check  
Hand out – Charles L. Campbell, *Principalities, Power, Fools*  
Submit Profiles in Ministry

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Introduction to the Practice of Ministry 2014

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Week 6 - Ministry Functions - Prophet and Evangelist: Calling for social and spiritual change and Leader and Administrator: Pastoral Oversight
Spiritual Gathering: Centering Prayer

Readings for today: Rice, pp. 125-138 (chapter 7)  
Rice, pp. 139-156 (chapter 8)  
Willimon, pp. 275-297 (chapter 11 & Interlude)

READING WEEK

Week 7 - Pastors as People: Integrity, Self Care and Pastoral Authority
Spiritual Gathering: Breath Prayer/Hesychia

Reading for today: Rice, pp. 157-192 (chapters 9 & 10, Epilogue)  
Nouwen, *In the Name of Jesus*  
Willimon, pp. 299 – 336 (chapters 12-13)

Seminar: small group organization for Odd and Wondrous Calling

Week 8 - The Candidacy Process for Ministry in the PCC, Susan Shaffer & Liz Brewer, Ministry and Church Vocations, PCC

Required Reading for Seminar: Daniel & Copenhaver, *Odd and Wondrous Calling*

Week 9 - Context and Ministry - Guest speaker – TBC
Spiritual Gathering: General Examen

Optional **Reflection # 2 Due**

Required Reading for Seminar: Daniel & Copenhaver, *Odd and Wondrous Calling*

Recommended: Douglas John Hall, *The End of Christendom, The Future of Christianity*

Week 10 – Context and Ministry – Guest – Katharine Masterton - TBC
Spiritual Gathering: Aboriginal Honouring of Creator

Readings: Hand outs - The ACCRA Confession; The 1994 Confession of the PCC, etc.  
Seminar: Presentations of Mentorship (submit notes)

Week 11 – Profiles Of Ministry Debrief
Spiritual Gathering: Body Prayer or other

Seminar: Presentations of Mentorship (submit notes)/ final papers

Week 12 – April 4  Final Class
Seminar: Presentations of Mentorship/ final papers

April 10 – Final Paper Due

RESOURCE MATERIAL

Required Texts:
- Handouts as distributed/forwarded.

Recommended Readings:

Auto/Biographical Sketches
- Achtemeier, Elizabeth, Not Till I Have Done: A Personal Testimony (Westminster, John Knox 1999).
- Augustine of Hippo, The Confessions
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich, Letters and Papers from Prison: Life Together


• Day, Dorothy, *The Long Loneliness*


• Julian of Norwich, *Revelations of Divine Love*


• Harder, Gary, *Dancing Through Thistles in Bare Feet: A Pastoral Journey* (Herald Press, 2007)


• Lueking, F. Dean, *The Grace of it All: Reflections on the Art of Ministry* (The Alban Institute, 2006)

• MacPherson, D. Neal, *Church at a Crossroads: Being the Church after Christendom* (Wipf & Stock Publishers)

• Niebuhr, Reinhold, *Pages from the Notebook of a Tamed Cynic*

• Nouwen, Henri, *Return of the Prodigal Son*
  - *The Genesee Diary*


• Rutherford, Samuel, *Letters of Samuel Rutherford*.

• Albert Schweitzer, *My Life and Thought*


• Weems, Renita J., *Listening for God: A Minister’s Journey through Silence and Doubt* (New
York, Simon and Schuster Pub., 1999)


- Vais, Chris, *For Words: A Journal of Hope and Healing*

- Whyte, Alexander, *The Life of Alexander Whyte*.

**Novels**

- Shusaku Endo, *Silence*
  - *The Samurai*


- Georges Bernanos, *Diary of a Country Priest*

- Fyodor Dostoyevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov*.

**Suggested Films**

- *Priest* (not the horror movie)  *Dead Man Walking*

- *The Mission*  *Romero*

- *Les Misérables*  *Gran Torino*